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**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA MOURNS THE LOSS OF
HONORARY MEMBER ALICE MARIE COACHMAN DAVIS**

Chicago, Illinois – July 20, 2014 – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated mourns the loss of trailblazing honorary member Alice Marie Coachman Davis. A notable athlete, Coachman Davis had the distinction of being the first black woman ever to win an Olympic gold medal, earned at the London Games in 1948 for her prowess at the high jump. She was the only American woman to win gold in track and field at the London Olympiad. Her achievement also resulted in her being inducted into the United States Olympic Hall of Fame, as well as the National Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Speaking on behalf of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's 265,000 members worldwide, the sorority's International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson lauded Coachman Davis as a "treasured athletic pioneer who paved the way for other African American female Olympic track and field champions such as Wilma Rudolph, Evelyn Ashford, Florence Griffith Joyner and Jackie Joyner-Kersey to follow."

Coachman Davis, who was inducted into the sorority in 1998, was a 90-year-old resident of Albany, Georgia at the time of her death. She was among the ranks of Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King and Maya Angelou who were also bestowed honorary membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

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